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DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

JAPAN: THE NAKASONE ADMINISTRATION'S HANDLING OF ECONOMIC ISSUES OF CONCERN TO THE UNITED STATES <u>Status</u> Comments Much progress made in implementing May 1984 yen/dollar accord, which promotes deregulation. Differences over trust banking and Euroyen markets remain. Financial liberalization Agreement reached in spring 1984 calls for expansion of beef and citrus imports over next three years. Government refuses, however, to consider complete liberalization of agricultural imports. Agricultural quotas and tariffs Recently have begun to accept foreign test data but implementation in several key areas still slow. Standards and certification procedures Foreigners will be allowed to sell value-added networks after Nippon Telegraph and Telephone (NTT) privatized in April 1985. New equipment standards being drafted--appears they may be more restrictive than before. 4. Telecommunications legislation NTT procurement of foreign telecommunications equipment After bilateral agreement took effect in 1980, foreign sales to NTT increased initially, but US sales have declined recently. Outlook uncertain after return of NTT to private sector. Restraint on steel shipments to Have expressed willingness to accept export restraints although have United States yet to agree on limits for various types of steel. Voluntary restraint on exports Decided to extend initial agreement signed in 1980 for a fourth year. of cars to United States Bureaucrats have hinted extension in 1985 also possible.

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indicates that issue basically resolved during Nakasone's tenure.



indicates that progress has been made but problem areas remain.

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indicates that no real movement has occurred since Nakasone assumed office in 1982.

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- B. Purchase of foreign satellites
- Permission for foreign lawyers to practice in Japan
- 10. Whaling moratorium
- 11. Software legislation
- 12. Sales of foreign cigarettes
- 13. Energy purchases from United
- 14. Removal of semiconductor tariffs
- Foreign direct investment in Japan
- Policies concerning depressed industries
- 17. Excise taxes

- Tokyo will allow private firms to purchase foreign satellites, but government policy of domestic development of satellites remains fairm.
- No movement so far and none likely before 1987.
 - Tokyo signed agreement in November 1984 to end sperm whaling as of 1988, but disagreements with Washington over interpretation have subsequently arisen.
 - Proposed protectionist legislation stalled by bureaucratic wrangling but not yet dead.
- Japan Salt and Tobacco Company monopoly on sales ended, but US companies' concerns about distribution system persist.
 - Participating in feasibility study of Alaskan LNG pipeline but dragging feet on boosting coal purchases.
- Elimination of tariffs approved by Tokyo and will be enacted when parallel legislation passed by US Congress.
- In May 1984 Diet revoked regulations limiting foreign investment in 12
 Japanese companies. Improvements also made in approval process for direct
 - Still permits depressed industries to form cartels, limiting foreigners' sales opportunities. Continues to restrict foreign access to industrial trade councils.
- Expanding number of items subject to excise taxes, which hit import sales disproportionately.

Japan Branch, Northeast Asia Division, Office of East Asian Analysis. Information available as of 11 December 1984 was used in its preparation.

investments.

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1 - Doug Mulholland, Department of Treasury

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